

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 is amended herein

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1 and 2 are objected to. Claim 1 is amended herein to overcome the claim objections.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the objections are overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(E) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KONDO ET AL. (US 5,586,254)

The comments in the response filed September 27, 2006 still apply here.

In item 5 on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner adds that in her "broadest reasonable interpretation, there is not [a] distinction between a floor and a room in this case." Although the Examiner interprets a "floor" and "room" as being the same, the Examiner still fails to illustrate that Kondo et al. ("Kondo") discloses the claimed invention.

Kondo does not disclose that each of the devices (see column 39, line 62 through column 40, line 40) are provided with a room illumination light, as alleged by the Examiner. Kondo also does not disclose that the central computer (see column 39, line 62 through column 40, line 40) is provided with a light turn-on operating means for turning on a room illumination light installed on the devices, as alleged by the Examiner.

By contrast, the present invention describes that the "patient terminals are provided with a room illumination light installed on the patient terminals and for illuminating a room in which the patient terminals are disposed, and wherein said center terminal is provided with a light turn-on operating means for turning on the room illumination light installed on the patient terminals" (see claim 1). These features as described in claims 1 and 2 of the present invention are neither disclosed nor suggested by Kondo. Accordingly, Kondo does not disclose the features recited in claims 1 and 2 of the present invention.

Further, the Examiner is reminded that "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); see also MPEP § 2131. Kondo does not anticipate each and every element as set forth in claims 1 and 2.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

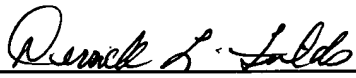
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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